

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2309

June 22, 2011

The Honorable Craig Fugate  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Fugate:

As representatives of those affected by the May 22<sup>nd</sup> tornado in Minneapolis, MN, we are writing to ask you to reconsider the decision to deny the victims of the tornado Individual Assistance.

Governor Dayton has appealed FEMA's denial of Individual Assistance for those affected by the tornado. In that denial, FEMA wrote that the damage was not beyond the combined capabilities of the state, local governments, and voluntary organizations. In the time since FEMA conducted its Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs), the full extent of damages to individuals has become clear. We believe that the full scope of damage to the community now warrants a new evaluation by FEMA, and we believe you will find the need to grant Individual Assistance to the victims.

After the PDAs were conducted, the City of Minneapolis removed 300,000 pounds of debris from the damaged area. With an unobstructed view, the city's inspections identified 232 dwellings with major damage, far more than the PDAs identified. The affected area has the highest number of foreclosed properties in Minneapolis, and a high unemployment rate. The State of Minnesota is still recovering from three major disasters in the past year. We believe that these factors combined more than qualify the victims for Individual Assistance.

We thank FEMA for their quick response to this emergency, and for granting public assistance under the disaster declaration. We write to urge you to reconsider the denial of Individual Assistance, especially in light of the full scope of damage being realized.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your assistance in helping the recovery effort across Minnesota.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Al Franken  
United States Senator



Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress